

Of the petitions filed with the FCC regarding the future of Morse Code testing for the amateur radio service, this proposal is the one best-suited to promote the growth of the amateur service. The FCC is already on record as stating that knowledge of Morse Code is not necessarily an indicator of a licensee's suitability. Now, with the ITU's change of international regulations giving each administration the discretion of deciding whether Morse capability is desirable, it would seem pointless to continue mandatory Morse capabilities for HF operators on the amateur service bands. Morse skill should no longer be required for Technician and General class licensees. However, if the Extra class-exclusive Morse sub-bands are to have any meaning at all in the future, Morse capabilities should be retained at 5 wpm for the highest class of amateur license. The current Extra class-exclusive sub-bands should also be retained as an incentive to upgrade. Thank you.